

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SUPPLY CHAIN PRODUCT AND PROCESS DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A method and system for supply chain product and process development collaboration. The supply chain is comprised of at least one project, where each project is defined as a part (or family of parts), a supplier to supply the part, and a customer to be supplied the part. In one embodiment, the system of the present invention includes a processor and a data storage and retrieval device operably connected to the processor. The data storage and retrieval device holds project data which, for each project of the supply chain, includes a project identifier to identify the project, a part identifier to identify the project part, a supplier identifier to identify the project supplier, a customer identifier to identify the project customer, data representative of a methodology applicable to the project, and data representative of at least one control associated with processing of the project. Functions included in the system include collaboration tools (tasks, notifications, message center, meetings, and planned visits) and security based on the project roles of supplier users, customer users, and project guest users. The method of the present invention uses the methodology to ensure that certain requirements are met before the project is said to satisfy the methodology. The system and method of the present invention ensures that the current methodologies applicable to a project are applied to the part and allows for collaboration between the customer and supplier during all phases of product and process design, development, and manufacture. Further, the presence of all projects in a supply chain in the system permits for navigation up, down, and throughout the supply chain. Reporting

functions in the supply chain permit for determination of the performance risks in the chain and the source of such performance risks.

1. The first step is to identify the key functions in the supply chain. This involves understanding the flow of goods and services from the supplier to the customer, and identifying the key activities that drive performance. This can be done through a process mapping exercise, which involves creating a visual representation of the supply chain process, showing the flow of goods and services, and identifying the key activities that drive performance.